



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TC 1700

In Re Application of: Muthiah, et al.

Serial No.: 09/982,342

Filed: October 18, 2001

For: HIGHLY ABSORBENT PRODUCTS )  
 AND PROCESS FOR MAKING )  
 SUCH PRODUCTS )

Group Art Unit: 1771

Examiner: Norca L. Torres-Velazquez

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

JANUARY 13, 2004  
[Signature] 1/13/04  
 Signature Date of Signature

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT****MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This letter is responsive to the restriction requirement set forth in the outstanding Office Action of December 17, 2003.

In such Office Action, the Examiner required Applicant to provisionally elect between the Group I process invention (claims 1-24, 50-54, 69-72, and 75-80) and the Group II product invention (claims 25-49, 55-57, 64-68, and 73-74). Moreover, Applicant was required to provisionally elect between patentably distinct species of polymeric material identified as: a) superabsorbent & non-superabsorbent polymers (as related to claims 26-27 and 32) and b) foamed (as related to claims 28, 34-35, and 44).

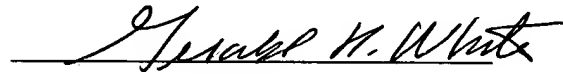
Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, to prosecute the Group II invention, claims 25-49, 55-57, 64-68, and 73-74.

Applicant also hereby elects, without traverse, to prosecute the claims of specie a).  
Applicant considers that claims 25-27, 29-33, 36-43, 45-49, 55-57, 64-68, and 73-74 constitute  
all elected claims readable on specie a).

Applicant respectfully requests a prompt action on the merits of the elected invention.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 13, 2004



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